

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2022



MAILING ADDRESS

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Steamboat Springs, CO 80487



STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

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YampaValleyElectricAssociation](https://facebook.com/YampaValleyElectricAssociation)



@YampaValleyElec



[@yampavalleyelectriccoop](https://instagram.com/yampavalleyelectriccoop)

Yampa Valley Electric Association is a cooperative that provides value to its member-owners through technology that delivers safe and reliable electrical service in an environmentally and financially responsible manner.

YAMPA VALLEY ELECTRIC
ASSOCIATION
IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.



7 Tips For

SAFE WINTER DRIVING



TAKE IT SLOW

When the weather is bad, even the speed limit can be too fast. Go as slow as you have to in order to be safe and keep control of your vehicle.



GIVE YOURSELF SOME SPACE

Make sure to give as much space between yourself and other vehicles as possible.



SPLIT FROM THE PACK

Space yourself out from the larger clumps of vehicles to reduce the risk of accidents.



PLAN FOR THE WEATHER

Keep an eye on the weather reports and road conditions so that you know when difficult conditions are coming.



FILL YOUR TANK

The extra weight helps keep your tires on the ground and reduce slipping.



A good winter safety kit includes blankets, flashlights, water, warm clothes, winter boots, washer fluid, shovel, first aid kit, and cell phone charger.



STOCK UP FOR SAFETY

If conditions seem too dangerous for you to make the trip at all, call it off. A missed trip is better than an accident.



welcome winter

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER STORMS WITH OUR EASY TIPS

1. Home Winter Preparedness

Make sure you have matches, extra blankets, flashlights, first aid kits, and more on-hand in case of sudden winter outages.

2. Dress for Cold Weather

Wearing layers of clothes helps protect you from the cold and elements, and proper outer layers help keep rain and snow out.

3. Safe Winter Driving

In addition to lower speeds, checking road conditions, and other smart winter driving tips, make sure you have a car kit packed in case you become stranded on your travels.

For additional winter safety tips, visit
<https://www.yvea.com/outage-center>



YVEA RETURNS CAPITAL CREDITS

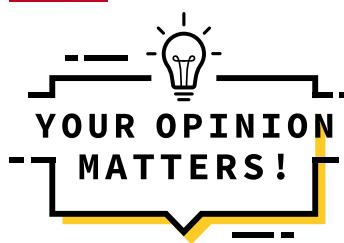
If you were a member of YVEA in 2003 and 2004, you may see a check or a bill credit on or after the 12th of December for a refund of 100% of your remaining Capital Credits from 2003 and 60% of your Capital Credits from 2004. Your YVEA Board authorized this retirement allocation which amounts to \$4,000,000 we are returning to our members. YVEA returns margins left over at the end of the year after plant improvements, and all other expenses have been paid.

If your refund is \$50 or greater, you will receive a check in a separate mailing. If your refund is less than \$50, it will appear as a credit to your current electric bill.

For any questions, please call us at 970-879-1160 or visit our website at yvea.com/what-are-capital-credits.



We had a blast passing out candy and lights in Craig and Steamboat!



Member Survey

Our Annual Member Survey has been emailed out! If you have yet to receive an email, please call us at 970-879-1160. Paper copies are available in the Craig and Steamboat Offices. And five lucky winners who complete the survey will get to choose a YVEA/Luminate branded gift: a safety kit, a Bluetooth speaker, a lunchbox, or an 8 oz stainless steel tumbler.

3[★] REASONS TO APPLY FOR



YOUTH TOUR

Hey, high school juniors and seniors!

What are your plans for next summer? Maybe sleep until noon, clean your room or binge-watch your favorite Netflix series? While all that sounds great, we bet you can top that by attending a free trip to Washington, D.C., with 2,000 of your closest co-op friends. Get ready to pack your bags and make monumental memories because your flight departs soon! Don't worry, YVEA has three pretty awesome reasons why you should board that plane.

You can apply today!

Applications can be found online at yvea.com/washington-dc-youth-tour.

Deadline to apply for the 2023 Youth Tour is January 20.

For more information, contact Tammi McKenzie at 970-871-2245

or tmckenzie@yvea.com.



**1 IT'S FREE.
JUST APPLY.**

Yes, you read that right. The Washington D.C. Youth Tour is an all-expenses-paid trip sponsored by national and state-wide associations plus your family here at Yampa Valley Electric Association. FREE airfare, FREE hotels, FREE meals and FREE attractions.

2 IT'S COOL.

You will spend eight days exploring Washington, D.C.'s most historic destinations including the Lincoln Memorial, National Air and Space Museum, the Library of Congress and more! Plus, you get to enjoy an award-winning play at the Kennedy Center.

**3 YOU GET TO
TRAVEL.**

Remember that travel bucket list you made? Check off Washington, D.C., 'cause your dreams are about to come true!

Merry & Bright

YVEA AND LUMINATE ARE PROUD TO SPONSOR THE HOLIDAY LIGHTING CONTEST IN PHIPPSBURG, YAMPA, THE CRAIG TOUR OF LIGHTS, AND BAGGS TOUR OF LIGHTS.

Time to get decorating!

Building Stronger Connections this Holiday Season



This is the season for joy, good cheer, and quality family time. The kids are home from school, extended family may be coming to visit, and there are plenty of gingerbread cookies to bake and memories to be made.

Whether you're celebrating with loved ones far or near, a strong internet connection can help you have fun and stay connected. Don't believe us? Ask the grandparent watching their first grandchild open presents over Zoom, or a group of cousins bonding while building a shared world in Minecraft.

Here are a few ways great internet can help you have a happier holiday—plus tips to ensure you have the speed you need:

Stress-free family movie nights

Thanks to streaming services, every holiday movie in existence is literally at your fingertips: the perfect recipe for family movie night. But a movie marathon is no fun if your connection starts buffering during the good parts.

Tip: For the best streaming experience, we recommend speeds of 250 Mbps or higher. You'll have enough speed and bandwidth to watch movies in 4K with zero buffering, so you can relax and enjoy time with your favorite people.

Lag-free video calls

Take it from Kevin McCallister—being away from family during the holidays can be

tough. Luckily, we have a nifty little thing that can help: smart phones. When you're video chatting over a crystal-clear connection, it can feel like your loved one is right there in the room, no matter how many miles apart you may be.

Tip: Slow upload speeds are often the culprit behind frozen or dropped video calls. Visit LuminateBroadband.com/speedtest to check yours.

Avoiding family feuds

Sometimes, the best way to encourage family bonding is by keeping the peace.

Think about it: if the kids are home from school, or you're hosting out-of-town guests, or this year's gifts include new smart devices—or all of the above—your internet

connection is going to feel the pressure of increased demand. If you don't have enough bandwidth to accommodate all those extra devices, you're going to experience lagging, buffering, and freezing...and the arguments that may ensue.

Tip: Wondering how much bandwidth is enough? Here's an easy way to check: take the internet speed you currently pay for, and divide it by 20 Mbps. That's about how many devices can use your internet at once before you'll start to notice connection issues. So if you have 100 Mbps internet, you can accommodate about 5 devices with simultaneous use.

Why this works: When used simultaneously, each smart device takes a piece of the bandwidth pie, and you want to make sure there's a large enough slice for each. Devices that see heavy internet use (think smart TVs with streaming capability, laptops, smart phones, etc.) need about 20 Mbps to operate. If you have security cameras or other smart home devices (fridges, thermostats, etc.), assume they need about 5 Mbps.

With a strong internet connection, you and your loved ones can still feel connected, whether you're on the same couch or 2,500 miles apart. **And if you think you need faster speeds, Luminate Broadband is here to help.** Contact our friendly, hometown staff at 970-870-4320. We'd love to hear from you.

